Remarks

This paper is a response to the non-final Office action electronically delivered April 23, 2007. This response is being filed within the three month shortened statutory period for response set forth in the Office action.

In the Office action, claims 13-18 as filed were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter; i.e., to non-tangible computer code per se. Claims 14-18 have been canceled. One new program product claim (claim 19) dependent on claim 13 has been added.

The two remaining computer program product claims (13 and 19) now positively recite a computer usable medium having computer usable program code embodied therein. A computer usable medium is an article of manufacture, one of the classes of patentable subject matter expressly set forth in the U.S. patent statute.

Given the changes in format of the computer program product claims, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 101 should be withdrawn.

In the Office action, claims 1-5 and 7-17 as filed were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,295,068 – Nishino. Of the claims listed, claims 1, 3-5, 7, 10-11 and 13 remain in the application in amended form. These claims, as amended, clearly distinguish over any teachings in Nishino.

The Nishino patent teaches the use of a temporary dictionary file that can be used to facilitate the translation of e-mail messages. It is taught at multiple places in the Nishino specification that the temporary dictionary file of "private words" is created by an e-mail user as part of the process of creating an e-mail document. The temporary dictionary file is integrated into the document file and is transmitted with the document file to a translation server. Once the document is translated, post-processing is performed which removes the temporary dictionary from the translated result before the translated result is transmitted.

The Nishino patent neither discloses nor suggests the use of a virtual dictionary file that is created at the start of a collaborative session, remains available for use during the entire session and then is erased when the session ends.

An e-mail system of the type contemplated by Nishino is not even a session-based system, but rather an asynchronous system in which each user decides independently when and

for how long to use the system without regard to whether any other user is currently using the same system. The concept of "sessions" does not even come into play in an e-mail system of the type contemplated by Nishino.

Since Nishino neither teaches nor suggests a session-based system, Nishino clearly cannot reasonably be said to teach each and every element of claims 1, 3-5, 7, 10-11 and 13, all of which clearly recite that a virtual dictionary file:

a) is created at the start of a session;

b) remains available for use during the entire session; and

c) is erased at the end of the session.

The rejections over Nishino under 35 U.S.C. 102 are clearly improper and should be withdrawn.

Claims 6 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over a hypothetical combination of Nishino and U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0125927 – Seme. Claim 18 has been canceled Claim 6 remains in the application in an amended form.

The Seme publication teaches an instant messaging or chat system which includes a translation engine for message-by-message translation for users of the chat system. Seme contains no teaching or suggestion of a virtual dictionary file containing special definitions or processing instructions for terms or names that might appear in messages generated during the chat session.

The Office action takes a position that it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill "to use the translation method as taught by Nishino with the translation of chat sessions as taught by Seme in order to provide method for real time multilingual chat communication (Seme paragraph 0005)."

It is submitted that it would <u>not</u> be obvious to use a Nishino teaching in a Seme-type system. As noted above, the Nishino system is a completely asynchronous system which makes no use of session-based concepts while Seme is limited to a session-based system.

Moreover, if one of ordinary skill in the art did attempt to modify the Seme system using Nishino teachings, the end result would still not be the invention defined by the claims of this application. Nishino teaches that a dictionary of "private words" can be embedded in a e-mail document, which would be the equivalent of a chat message in an instant messaging system.

Nishino also teaches that the "private word" dictionary is deleted from a translated document once the translation is complete.

If the Nishino teachings are carried into the Seme system, the end result would be private dictionaries which came into being each time a new message was generated (rather than at the start of a session as required by the claims of this application) and which would remain active only until the message was translated (and not for the life of the session as required by the claims of this application).

It is submitted that the rejection of the claims of this application over a hypothetical combination of Nishino and Seme is inappropriate and should be withdrawn.

It is respectfully requested that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 101, 35 U.S.C 102 and 35 U.S.C 103 be withdrawn and that this application be passed to issue.

Respectfully Submitted,
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Appendix A

1. A translation server for translating an entered text and providing a translated text during a collaborative session, comprising:

a translation processing unit for executing a text translation process; and

a dictionary storage unit for storing a general dictionary file referred to in the text translation process and a virtual dictionary file created at the start of the collaborative session for use in the text translation process only during the collaborative session, said virtual dictionary file being erased from said dictionary storage unit at the end of the collaborative session.

2. (canceled)

3. A collaboration server for supporting a collaborative session with a plurality of terminals exchanging data via a network, comprising:

a session management unit for managing a collaborative session with the plurality of terminals;

a translation processing unit for translating a text in a first language entered during the collaborative session with a first terminal into a second language used in a second terminal participating in the collaborative session; and

a dictionary management unit for creating a session-specific dictionary file at the start of the collaborative session for use by the translation processing unit only during the session, said dictionary management unit causing the session-specific file to be erased at the end of the collaborative session.

4. (canceled)

5. The collaboration server according to Claim 3, wherein the dictionary management unit creates, at the start of a collaborative session, a session-specific dictionary file for each terminal participating in the collaborative session and causes each created session-specific file to be erased at the end of the collaborative session.

6. The collaboration server according to Claim 3, wherein the dictionary management unit creates a session-specific dictionary file corresponding to a user when the user enters the collaborative session and erases the session-specific dictionary file when the user exits the collaborative session.

7. An information processor, comprising:

input means for entering a text in a first language;

translation processing means for translating the text into a second language to create a translation text;

dictionary storage means for storing a general dictionary file referred to in the translation process executed by the translation processing means;

virtual dictionary storage means for storing a virtual dictionary file for use in the translation process executed by the translation processing means for the duration of a collaborative session; and

output means for outputting the translated text created by the translation processing means.

8.(canceled)

9.(canceled)

10. A machine translation method for translating a text in a first language into a second language, comprising the steps of:

at the start of a collaborative session of two or more users, creating, in a memory, a dictionary file for use in a translation process executed during the collaborative session, the dictionary file being specific to the collaborative session;

registering a word and its usage in the dictionary file specific to the collaborative session;

translating text entered during the session referring to the dictionary file specific to the collaborative session; and

erasing the registered word and its usage from the dictionary file at the end of the collaborative session.

11.(currently amended) The machine translation method according to Claim 10, wherein translating text entered during the session referring to the dictionary file specific to the session gives higher priority to the dictionary file specific to the collaborative session than to a general dictionary file.

12. (canceled)

13. A computer program product for causing a computer to translate a text in a first language into a second language, the computer program product comprising:

a computer usable medium having computer usable program code embodied therewith comprising:

computer usable program code configured to create, in a memory, when a collaborative session begins, a dictionary file specific to the collaborative session, for use in a translation process executed during the collaborative session;

computer usable program code configured to register a word and its usage in the dictionary file specific to the collaborative session; and

computer usable program code configured to translate text entered during the collaborative session, referring to the dictionary file specific to the collaborative session created when the collaborative session starts; and

computer usable program code configured to erase the registered word and its usage from the dictionary file at the end of the collaborative session.

14. (canceled)

15. (canceled)

16. (canceled)

17. (canceled)

18. (canceled)

19. A computer program product according to claim 13 wherein the computer usable program code configured to translate text entered during the collaborative session, referring to the dictionary file specific to the collaborative session created when the collaborative session starts further comprises computer usable program code configured to give higher priority to the dictionary file specific to the session than to a general dictionary file.